

DEVIZES RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer
of Health
FOR 1950

G. H. H. WAYLEN, M.B., D.P.H., Cantab.
Medical Officer of Health for the Devizes Rural District

DEVIZES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1950

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit herewith my Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your District for the year 1950.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

G. H. H. WAYLEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

Browfort, Devizes.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres—63,515

Population as Estimated by Registrar-General—15,320.

Number of inhabited houses—3,597.

Rateable Value—£64,544.

Product of a penny rate—£276 18s. 10d.

VITAL STATISTICS

				Male	Female	Total
Live Births	...	...	...	102	108	210
Legitimate	...	...	...	99	103	202
Illegitimate	...	...	...	3	5	8
Stillbirths	...	...	...	—	2	2
Legitimate	...	...	...	—	2	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
Live Birth Rate	...	...	...			13.7
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales			...			15.8
Number of Deaths from all causes			...			142
Crude Death Rate	...	...	...			9.27
Crude Death Rate for England and Wales			...			11.6
Deaths of Infants under one year (Legitimate)				1	—	1
Infantile Mortality Rate	...	...	...			4.7
Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales						29.8
Deaths as a Result of Pregnancy and Childbirth						1
Maternal Mortality Rate	...	...	...			4.7
Maternal Mortality Rate for England and Wales						.86

CAUSES OF DEATH
AS RETURNED BY REGISTRAR-GENERAL, 1950

				M.	F.	Total
1	Tuberculosis Respiratory	...	...	1	1	2
2	Tuberculosis other	...	...	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic Disease	...	...	—	—	—
4	Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	—	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—	—
8	Measles	...	...	—	—	—
9	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	...	—	—	—
10	Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	...	...	2	—	2
11	Malignant Neoplasm of Lung and Bronchus	...	...	1	—	1
12	Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	...	...	—	3	3
13	Malignant Neoplasm of Uterus	...	...	—	—	—
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	9	4	13
15	Leukæmia and Aleukæmia	...	...	—	—	—
16	Diabetes	...	...	—	—	—
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	8	11	19
18	Coronary Disease Angina	...	...	17	7	24
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	4	2	6
20	Other Heart Disease	...	...	17	14	31
21	Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	3	4	7
22	Influenza	...	...	—	1	1
23	Pneumonia	...	...	1	2	3
24	Bronchitis	...	...	2	2	4
25	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	1	—	1
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	—	2	2
27	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa	...	...	—	—	—
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	—	1	1
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	2	—	2
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	...	...	—	1	1
31	Congenital Malformations	...	...	—	—	—
32	Other Deformed and Illdefined Diseases	...	...	8	4	12
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	3	—	3
34	All Other Accidents	...	...	2	—	2
35	Suicide	...	...	1	1	2
36	Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	—	—	—
All Causes				82	60	142

Satisfactory features are :—

1. The absence of deaths from infectious diseases.
2. The low figure (10) from respiratory diseases, including two from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Nearly three quarters of total deaths were attributed to Cardio Vascular Diseases (groups 17-21 inclusive) and Malignant Neoplasms (groups 10-14 inclusive) *i.e.* 87 or 61% to the former and 19 or 13% to the latter. Such figures denote an aging community with deaths occurring in the main between the ages of 50 and 90. With the small numbers here dealt with, yearly variations, apparently wide maybe, have little significance.

GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Medical Officer of Health—G. H. H. Waylen, M.B., D.P.H., Cantab.

Chief Sanitary Inspector (also Surveyor and Water Engineer)—G. E. Williams, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector—V. C. S. Robey, M.S.I.A.

Housing Inspector—E. C. Bishop.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

Devizes & District Hospital

As a matter of interest to your Council and to keep in line with previous reports, I submit the data below relative to the work carried on in that Institution in 1950.

Total Bed Complement	...	...	...	60
Average Occupied Beds	...	...	...	42.21
Radiological Department. In-patients	...	...	...	331
" " Out-patients	...	...	...	2492
Pathological Department	...	...	...	2035
Physiotherapy Department :—				
Treated In-patients	...	...	...	404
" Out-patients	...	...	...	2002
Treatments given—In-patients	...	...	...	2556
" Out-patients	...	...	...	22214
Number of Patients Admitted—Male	...	...	...	541
Female	...	...	...	552
Number of Operations Performed—Major	...	...	...	469
Minor	...	...	...	685

A new Radiography Department in a separate building was begun to replace the existing installation in cramped quarters. When this is complete the only remaining real need will be a new Out-patient Department. There is no available space within the main building for such; the existing arrangements are quite inadequate and makeshift to cope with the numbers now attending.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	...	...	60
Whooping Cough	...	...	79
Measles	...	...	14
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	13
Dysentery	...	...	7
Erysipelas	...	...	2
Polio, Paralytic	...	...	1
Meningococcal Infection Paralytic			1

Cases requiring isolation in an Institution or Hospital for treatment or care were sent out of the Area, mainly to Chippenham Isolation Hospital. A special centre for reception of cases of anterior poliomyelitis has been formed at Bath.

Maternity Services

Domiciliary Midwifery is the responsibility of the Wilts County Council. Institutional Midwifery is undertaken in hospitals under the S.W. Regional Hospitals Board. In your area the old Isolation Hospital was being partially adapted for use as a local Maternity Centre during the year; this work was completed by the 31st December.

Ivy House, Devizes, dealt with 128 cases on a payment basis in 1950, mainly from the Devizes area.

During the year 82 women from your District were confined at home and 111 Institutionally (nearly 60%). Present housing conditions intensify the trend towards Hospital Maternity for all, but it is much more costly and admissions to a free service should be on medical and environmental grounds alone.

Nursing

Fresh entrants to the nursing profession are not coming forward in adequate numbers. Hospitals here are largely staffed by semi-trained and part time personnel which throws an undue strain on the small fully trained staff. This defect especially affects Institutions dealing with Tuberculosis and Mental Diseases.

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Group	NOTIFICATIONS				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—10 ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10—15 ...	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
15—25 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 ...	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 ...	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—65 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65 ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	6	5	1	—	1	1	—	—

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION								
Number of Children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1950								
Age at 31/12/50 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1950	1 1949	2 1948	3 1947	4 1946	5-9 1941/45	10-14 1936-40	Total under 15
Number immunised	2	82	139	155	129	756	818	2081
Estimated mid- year population 1950	Children under 5 1042					Children 5-14 1980		3022

HOUSING

Number of houses completed during the year: By Local Authority, 20; by Private Enterprise, 13; total 33.

Houses under construction at the end of the year: By Local Authority, 82.

Houses authorised but not begun: By Local Authority, 14.

Of the above houses now begin built by your Authority, 40 are traditional and 42 non-traditional (Cornish unit 26, and Reema 16). Of the former Potterne and Rowde have 12 apiece, Seend 10 and Easterton 6. Of the latter Urchfont has 22, other villages small groups; (Chirton and Bishops Cannings 6 each and West Lavington 8).

Sites purchased during the year: The Lye site at Seend: area—8 acres. Negotiations are in progress for other sites in a number of villages notably one for close on 10 acres at Bromham.

Building costs continue to rise, those for a 3 bedroomed traditional house in 1950 reached £1460. The rent of such is round about 15/- per week, nearly double that of pre-war standard dwellings with exception of special agricultural houses completed during 1943. These are let at 15s. 9d. in spite of special subsidies of £22 per annum.

Houses demolished during the year: 1.

Some essential repair work has been carried out here and there by informal action of the Local Authority, after complaints by the tenants; and doubtless other similar work elsewhere. None the less, owners of old cottage property are between the devil of rent restriction and the deep sea of ever rising costs. Under these conditions little is likely to be done to keep such properties in good order; and the result can only be a still larger measure of slum clearance later on.

Some of those most in need of decent accommodation such as old age pensioners and unskilled labourers with children of school age, cannot afford even those rents, and so refuse the offer of new homes and continue to live in cramped and obsolescent dwellings. What can be done to meet their need?

WATER SUPPLIES

Various schemes were discussed and a trial borehole at Chirton was commenced, but no real augmentation of your available supplies took place in 1950. (See the Sanitary Inspector's Report.)

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

The first portion of the works to sewer Potterne was completed but no connections made at the year's end. (See Sanitary Inspector's Report.)

Sanitary Inspector's Report, 1950

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit herewith my Annual Report in conjunction with your Medical Officer of Health. The report contains some particulars of my duties as Water Engineer and Building Surveyor which I have included as they have a direct bearing on public health matters.

HOUSING

Little progress was made in regard to the repair of defective and insanitary houses to make them in all respects fit for human habitation. Government policy and controls are indeed directed to apply the brake on repairs and improvements to houses with a view to securing the greater part of the output of the building trade on the erection of new dwellings. Those sections of the Housing Act, 1949, which deal with Improvement Grants are virtually rendered ineffective, for the present at least, by reason of the fact that the quota allowed under the Building Licensing Regulations is barely sufficient to carry out the most urgent repairs. Without doubt an important contribution can be made in course of time to the housing problem through the operation of the Improvement Grant sections of the Housing Act 1949, when the more urgent housing needs have been met.

Notwithstanding the present very difficult position, houses are inspected upon complaint, and the owners are requested by informal action to carry out the most urgent items of repair.

It is becoming increasingly necessary to rehouse those people who live in dwellings which had demolition orders made on them prior to 1940, as the owners are unwilling to incur expenditure on any repairs. The time is rapidly approaching when these very insanitary houses must be pulled down. Only one such house was demolished during the year. The problem is made more difficult by the fact that some of the occupiers of these houses have not applied for Council Houses as they are unable to afford the higher rental of these houses compared with the ones they occupy.

Eleven houses having demolition orders on them were licensed under the Defence Regulations for continued occupation. This is an increase on the previous year.

WATER SUPPLY

Area Supplied

Of the 24 Parishes in the District, eight only are totally served by the Council's main, and five partially served.

Part of two Parishes are served from the Devizes Borough supply and parts of three others by private mains. The following table shows the position in regard to the availability of piped water supplies:—

Parish	Number of Houses Supplied		Population Supplied	
	Direct	Standpipe	Direct	Standpipe
<i>From R.D. Supply</i>				
Bromham ...	61	—	214	—
Easterton ...	22	—	77	—
Great Cheverell ...	96	—	336	—
Little Cheverell ...	18	—	63	—
Market Lavington ...	297	—	1026	—
Marston ...	39	—	137	—
Potterne ...	247	3	865	11
Poulshot ...	60	—	210	—
Roundway ...	16	—	56	—
Rowde ...	162	5	567	18
Seend ...	225	24	787	84
West Lavington ...	46	—	161	—
Worton ...	95	—	333	—
Totals ...	1384	32	4832	113
<i>Council House Estate</i>				
<i>Boreholes</i>				
Allcannings ...	6	—	21	—
Marden ...	6	—	21	—
Totals ...	12	—	42	—
<i>From Other Sources</i>				
Roundway *	70	—	1705	—
West Lavington ...	80	—	280	—
Bishop Cannings ...	71	8	228	30
Erlestoke ...	35	—	123	—
Easterton ...	6	—	25	—
Totals ...	262	8	2361	30
Grand Total ...	1658	40	7235	143

* This includes Roundway Hospital.

**Amount of Water Supplied in 1950 from Great Cheverell and
Devizes Borough Sources**

<i>Month</i>	<i>Gt. Chev.</i>	<i>Nursteed</i>	<i>Fairway</i>	<i>Dunkirk</i>	<i>Brickley Lane</i>
January	1,970,100		582,000	1,063,650	
February	3,717,540		1,022,900	975,400	
March	1,700,100		1,372,250	1,109,000	
April	1,556,100		890,000	973,000	
May	1,701,100		888,750	843,000	
June	1,834,400	14,900	1,088,600	1,000,200	
July	2,685,200	7,240	787,000	771,800	300
August	2,001,700	6,960	485,250	656,350	500
September	1,872,900	6,050	424,050	679,170	500
October	2,221,200	6,350	447,150	479,830	280
November	2,635,300	7,300	442,550	567,000	20
December	2,240,400	8,200	634,300	500,800	
	26,136,040	57,000	9,064,800	9,619,200	1,600

Supplied from Great Cheverell Borehole	...	26,136,040
Supplied from Devizes Borough	... ..	18,742,600

Total Supplied during 1950	...	44,878,640
----------------------------	-----	------------

**Statistics Relating to the Great Cheverell System with Particular
Reference to Consumption**

1. The number of new connections made to the system during 1950 was 73.
2. The total number of metered connections is 200.
3. The total number of non-metered connections is 1,216.
4. The estimated non-domestic consumption was 16,065,000 gallons per annum.
5. The estimated domestic consumption was 28,813,000 gallons per annum.
6. The estimated domestic consumption per head of population was 15.9 gallons per day.
7. The estimated overall consumption was (i.e. domestic and non-domestic) per head of population was 24.8 gallons.

It should be noted that Nos. 4-7 above are estimated figures only. It is not possible to give precise figures as the water which is recorded by most service meters (e.g. farms) is used for both domestic and non-domestic purposes. Again, an estimate of population (3.5 persons per house) was used in arriving at the above figures, as a physical count is not practicable. No adjustment has been made for the waste factor.

Notwithstanding these computations and limitations the figures may be taken as fairly reliable indicators.

The most significant figure is the domestic consumption of 15.9 gallons per head per day. The figure used in computing estimated requirements for future schemes is 25 gallons or 58% higher than experience of the Great Cheverell system shows. It must, however, be remembered that there is no proper system of sewers in any of the Parishes covered by the Great Cheverell system, consequently baths, wash basins and W.C's are the exception rather than the rule among consumers.

Evidence is being collected on the effect on water consumption of providing modern sanitary amenities. The supply to some of the Council House post war estates (which have a full complement of sanitary fitments) is being metered and the consumption per head of population can be worked out after a full year.

Water mains have an estimated life of 30 years (they are often in service for 50 years). Most villages should have a sewerage system long before the end of the life of the main so that ample provision must be made for a consumption much in excess of 15.9 gallons per person per day.

The quantity of water abstracted from the Council's own source continues to be insufficient. The total quantity of water supplied from all sources was approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons more than during 1949. Difficulty was experienced in maintaining an adequate supply on the higher reaches of the Bromham main due to the restriction of supply by the Devizes Borough Council who are having difficulty in maintaining pressure in parts of the town. The remedy lies in bringing into being the post-war scheme for the north west area (Scheme No. 1).

Quality

The quality of water supplied by the Council continues to be satisfactory as evidenced by the results of samples set out below.

Great Cheverell Public Supply

Date	Before or after Chlorination	Result	
13/3/50	Before	Bacteriological	Fair
13/3/50	After	"	Satisfactory
6/7/50	Before	"	"
6/7/50	After	"	"
25/10/50	Before	"	"
25/10/50	After	"	Fair
30/10/50	After	"	"
8/11/50	After	"	Satisfactory

POST-WAR SCHEMES

Scheme No. 1. North-West Area. (Bulk Supply from Calne and Chippenham)

As the proposed supply for this scheme is from the Calne and Chippenham R.D.C. Eastern Area Scheme, progress was dependant upon that Authority. They were engaged in protracted negotiations for 2—3 years with

the Air Ministry and private owners concerning sources at Yatesbury, Cherhill and Calstone. These failed to materialise and they eventually decided to obtain a bulk supply from Chippenham Borough. In the spring of 1950 the horticulturalists in Bromham pressed the Council to proceed with a scheme so as to provide water for irrigation purposes from the mains. A conference of the interested bodies was held in Trowbridge followed by a survey of horticultural requirements and meetings of the Engineers concerned. It soon became manifest that the horticultural demand would cause engineering and financial complications. It remains to be seen if these can be resolved.

Scheme No. 2, North Eastern Area. (Bulk Supply from Devizes Borough Council)

Materials were order and a few delivered for the first instalment of this scheme, i.e., the parishes of Roundway and Bishops Cannings.

Scheme No. 3, South Eastern Area. (Chirton Borehole)

After many vicissitudes the trial borehole for this scheme was completed in August and proved to be satisfactory as to yield and quality. The Consulting Engineers were subsequently instructed to prepare the scheme in detail.

Scheme No. 4. (The Warren)

No tangible progress was made on this scheme.

Scheme No. 5. (Augmentation of Great Cheverell Scheme)

I recommended in July, 1949, that a new borehole should be sunk at Great Cheverell. Unfortunately the Wilts County Council would not approve the scheme until the result of the Chirton trial borehole (Scheme No. 3) was known. This meant many months delay before their approval was obtained. Meanwhile the need is pressing. It is also intended to make provision for augmenting this source from Scheme No. 4.

Erlestoke

Agreement was substantially reached with the War Department on the purchase of plant and land for this scheme. Materials were ordered and a small quantity received.

Nurstead

The scheme to supply this hamlet was completed in June and practically all premises en-route were connected from its inception.

WATER SCHEMES FOR COUNCIL HOUSE ESTATES NOT WITHIN REACH OF A PUBLIC SUPPLY

Allcannings

This borehole was sunk in 1948 and continues to be satisfactory. The result of a sample taken is as follow:—

Date	Borehole	Result
6.7.50		Bacteriological Satisfactory

Marden

The borehole sunk for site in 1949 continues to be satisfactory. The result of a sample taken is a follows:—

Date	Borehole	Result
6.7.50		Bacteriological Satisfactory

Chirton

The borehole sunk in 1949 is not yet in operation as the houses are not completed.

Urchfont

The borehole sunk in 1949 is not yet in operation. Samples taken in 1949 showed that there was some pollution. Results of samples since taken are as follows:—

Date		Result
1.5.50	New Borehole	Chemical Satisfactory
1.5.50	" "	Bacteriological Satisfactory

It would appear that on settling down the quality of the water is improving this borehole.

Private Wells

Bacteriological samples were taken at the following places:—

Date	Place	Result
11. 1.50	Broadwell Reservoir	Satisfactory
25. 1.50	Etchilhampton	Fair
13. 2.50	Easterton	Unsatisfactory
2. 3.50	Bromham	Fair
21. 3.50	Bromham	Unsatisfactory
12. 6.50	Wedhampton (new borehole)	Fair
6. 7.50	Beechingstoke	Satisfactory
17. 7.50	Littleton Panell	Unsatisfactory
25. 7.50	Potterne	Unsatisfactory
31. 7.50	Etchilhampton	Unsatisfactory
16. 8.50	Poulshot	Unsatisfactory
23. 8.50	Rowde	Unsatisfactory
16. 9.50	Allcannings	Unsatisfactory
25.10.50	Etchilhampton	Satisfactory
6.11.50	Bishops Cannings	Unsatisfactory
4.12.50	Great Cheverell	Unsatisfactory

The above samples are for the most part from shallow and unsteined wells and are fairly representative of the area as a whole.

General Observations on Water Supply Position.

More tangible and definite progress was made with the Council's post-war schemes than during previous years, and it is to be hoped that some of the bigger schemes will be commenced in 1951-2.

SEWERAGE

The Council are responsible for 11.19 miles of piped sewer (in addition to the Potterne Scheme) and 4.4 miles of sewer ditch. There are no sewage disposal works on any part of this haphazard and improvised means of dealing with foul waste water. Originally these sewers and ditches were constructed to convey surface water but over many decades the owners of houses en route have connected sullage water to them and they have thus acquired the status of sewers. In conformity with previous practice and to reduce nuisances your Officers endeavour to dissuade owners from connecting water closets to them. There is no legal sanction for resisting such connections; on the contrary, the owners have a right to do so.

The first and only modern sewage system in the area (apart from post-war Council House Estates) was practically completed in 1950. This is in Potterne, where a portion of the houses now enjoy the amenities of W.C.'s, baths, wash basins, etc. It is proposed to complete the scheme for the village when the approval of the Ministry of Health is received.

Plans of 38 septic tanks and drainage systems for house owners and five sewage disposal works for 90 Council Houses were approved,

Two lengths of defective sewer were relaid at West Lavington and Urchfont.

FOOD INSPECTION

The Council adopted the model bye-laws relating to the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air in the early part of 1950.

Particulars of food condemned as unfit for human consumption are as follows :—

<i>Food</i>	<i>Cause</i>
25 lbs. Beef	Bone taint
12 lbs. Jellied Veal	Tin damaged
1 Tin Beef Loaf	" Tin damaged

A detailed survey of all food shops, bakehouses, cafes and some Public Houses was carried out. Structural improvements by informal action were effected in fifteen premises as a result of the survey. Pressure was also brought to bear in several instances to obtain a higher standard of cleanliness.

Milk and Dairies

Most of the duties relating to inspection for the purpose of ensuring a clean milk supply were transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and

Fisheries. The supervision of "Distributors" is still the function of the Council. Many of these conduct their business in a reasonably clean manner, but a few are apt to lapse if they think that the Inspector has forgotten them.

Ice Cream

The number of retailers of ice cream increased from 17-24. These were all inspected and there were no grounds for complaint.

FOOD POISONING

Two cases of food poisoning occurred in the area of the Cricklade and Wootton Bassett R.D.C. and it appears they became ill after a visit to this area, where they had eaten cakes produced in a bakehouse in West Lavington. Upon inspection it was found that one of the employees had a septic lesion on the back of her hand as the result of a fall. *Staphylococcus* were, on analysis, found in the cakes and they may have been infected from the lesion. The evidence was not conclusive but suitable precautionary action was taken.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The fortnightly collection of refuse throughout the district continues to work smoothly.

Occasionally representations are made by householders that the collection should be increased to a weekly one. Most of the refuse is disposed of at Heron Bridge where a modified system of Controlled Tipping is used.

A small quantity is also tipped at Seend. Unfortunately, this tip has been developed in a haphazard way and is beyond redemption as a controlled tip.

RODENT CONTROL

The duties of the Council were increased under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, in that farms, hitherto the responsibility of the Wilts Agricultural Executive Committee, became the responsibility of the Council. For the proper discharge of these duties as laid down under the above Act and Orders made under the Act, the services of at least one full time Rodent Operator are essential.

The current arrangement is that the Devizes Borough Council and yourselves share the service of a Rodent Operator.

The main treatment was concentrated on sewer ditches for which the Council assume responsibility. In the course of treating these sewer ditches, which may be a mile in length, many properties are in effect treated. It was found that Block Control procedure is effective in the more populous parts of the area.

The results of treatment carried out are as follows:—143 properties dealt with. 32 were notified and 111 discovered as a result of routine survey work. The estimated number of rats killed was 2300.

Type of Property	No. of Properties Inspected	No. of Inspections Made	No. of Treatments Carried out by Arrangement with the Occupier	Block Treatments of Properties in Different Occupancies			No. of Notices Served
				No. of Blocks	No. of Separate Occup'cies		
Local Authority's Property	5	15	—	15 treatments of sewer ditches, 5 treatments of refuse tips			—
Dwelling House	389	492	14	17	99		2
Business Premises	22	32	5	—	—		1
Agricultural Property	4	4	2	—	—		—
Total	420	543	21	37	119		3

FACTORIES ACT

There are 57 Factories in the district. Particulars of inspections and action taken are as follows :—

23 Inspections were made during the year.

Alteration to sanitary accommodation	...	2	Remedied	2
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	...	2	"	2
Structural alteration to bakehouse	...	2	"	2
Inadequate means of fire escape	...	1	Work in hand	

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Licences are in force in respect of 3 sites. Individual licences were granted in respect of 5 moveable dwellings. Moveable dwellings are a difficult problem in some areas, fortunately the numbers are small in your area and no difficulty was experienced in keeping effective control.

COMPLAINTS

The following table shows the position in regard to complaints made to your Officers either verbally or by correspondence :—

Type of Complaint	Number	Remedied	Out-standing	No action necessary
Housing (excluding Council Houses) ...	17	13	4	—
Keeping of Animals ...	2	2	—	—
Drains, Sewers and Ditches	46	40	5	1
Disposal of night soil ...	3	3	—	—
Bakehouses and Food Shops	4	3	1	—
Dirty and Infested Houses	4	4	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation	7	4	1	2
Water Supply ...	23	21	2	—
Refuse Accumulations ...	10	10	—	—
Factories ...	3	2	1	—
Miscellaneous ...	4	4	—	—
Not within the Council's jurisdiction ...	7	—	—	—
Total ...	130	106	14	3

BUILDING LICENSING REGULATIONS

Licences to the value of £6,245 were issued. The small quota granted to the Council severely restricts the repair of property.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING AND BUILDING BYE-LAWS

156 plans were submitted for approval. Numerous enquiries concerning proposals which did not reach the submission of plans stage were also dealt with.

Long explanations on the procedure for the submission of applications and the reasons for requiring various details take up much of the time of the staff. The public, and even experienced small builder firms, are often bewildered at the complexity of the legislation governing building and they are worried and harassed by the numerous hurdles which must be surmounted before relatively simple operations can commence.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

Housing	...	...	...	...	211
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	113
Building	...	...	...	...	215
Drains	...	...	...	...	113
Sewerage	...	...	...	...	439
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	529
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	33
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	...	39
Food	...	...	...	...	11
Food Shops	...	...	...	...	65
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	24
Refuse	...	...	...	...	94
Workshops and Factories	...	...	...	...	23
Petroleum	...	...	...	...	26
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	33
Council Houses	...	...	...	...	448
Town Planning	...	...	...	...	139
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	175
Building Bye-laws	...	...	...	...	97
Total					<hr/> 2,827 <hr/>

I should like to express my thanks to the Officers and staff of the Public Health Department for the help and assistance they have so freely given me, and to the Council for their continued appreciation.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) G. E. WILLIAMS,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

